34. 39. Miscellaneous-3-Price Control (c) Grain Purchase—Pay

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I beg to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 37,024. This is necessitated by the extension of the grain purchase staff which used to be extended from time to time. The original allotment was up to the last day of Makaram 1121. The term had to be extended and this amount is necessary to pay that staff and the other expenses in connection with the entertainment of that staff.

Cut Motion No. 3

Reducing the number of hands in the Department

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkncheri):* Sir, I move that the amount of Rs. 37,024 under "39-Miscellaneous-3-Price Control Measures-C-Grain Purchase Pay" be reduced by one rupee—to stress upon the Government the imperative necessity to reduce the unnecessarily large number of hands employed in the Department". I have formally moved the cut, but I would like to get before I proceed further one or two pieces of information if that is available. May I ask for it, Sir?

Mr. Deputy President : Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I would like to know Sir whether there has been any reduction or increase in the number of hands employed in the Supplies Department after the budget session of 1121.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* There has been a reduction and savings to the extent of Rs. 27,394 have been effected in 1121.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I want to know Sir about the reduction of hands, the category of hands reduced also.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* The reduction is in respect of 2 grain purchase assistants, their peons have been dispensed with, the posts of 16 clerks have been abolished; the pay of the fieldmen has been reduced from Rs. 25 to Rs. 20, and thus there is a saving.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).* Very commendable, thanks.

Sir, I thank the Hon'ble Member for supplies for the information supplied. Now, Sir, the food question in the State has been and is a vital question. That is so is clear from the fact that soon after the austere system of commandeering was introduced in the middle of 1118, after watching the working of the Department in all its ramifications, this Council used to take opportunities of discussing this question, the food question in those days, from various angles as seen from a particular special debate upon food in 1119 within one year of the starting of the operations. That was followed in a simlar fashion by a motion 1120 Vrischigam, that again was followed, Sir, in the Budget Session of 1120 on a cut motion moved by the Hon'ble Member now representing Trichur Ezhuvas. And in the shape of questions and answers also all the aspects of the food question in the State have been thrashed out in this House. Various sorts of answers have been supplied some attempting to hide the real state of affairs also, while others showing things in their nakedness.

Mr. Deputy President: The cut motion is not upon the food question, it is only to reduce the unnecessary staff, for grain purchase.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Sir, I was giving only a small preface leading to that question. I was referring to these things only to show that the question has been dealt with at length, by this house. The past has been always alive to the issue. These discussions clearly show that to the extent to which the Department is working properly, it had been a case of unstinted praise for the Department, as also its head, but where derelictions of duty were seen, comments in the other way were also equally strong. Occasionally, once in a way there had been response to the representations made by this House, from the various sections of this House, but more often, barring of course those rare exceptions when what is right is, at times, seen to be done by the Government, it had been the other way. The representations of this House will be seen often to have fallen on deaf ears. There was, Sir, in this House specific representation pertaining to this subject, namely, the necessity for reduction of the unnecessarily large number of hands employed in the Department quite recently. I had, Sir, during the Budget discussion, occasion to remark with full statistics in my possession, that the hands employed in

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the Department have grown—to use my own words—grown into a veritable battalion, so much so that even an energetic officer like our Hon'ble Rao Sahib could not control his vast army of men belonging to different grades of society, different acumen, different status in life, different in very many other things too. I even ventured, Sir, then to state that in these state of affairs, corruption, a most unhappy thing, which has to be put down by very severe methods, had begun to dance in the Department. My expression then was that the Department has become the dancing ground of corruption. Not that the Department is not attempted to be managed properly, but it has become impossible even for the energetic head of the Department to manage it, because, Sir, there is a limit to human capacity, although he may be working for all the 24 hours in the day, although he may be seen at the farthest end of the State, the Travancore border at 10 O'clock and the Coimbatore border at 12 O' clock. In spite of all these, there is a limit for human capacity. My Hon'ble friend the poor Director of Supplies is over-worked; so much so that at least his case, the superannuation date will have to be extended by 15 years, not extended, but he shall have to be given full pension even 15 years before time. He should not be over-worked like that. It is impossible for a single human being to control more than 2000 persons of the category that I mentioned earlier.

Now, to be specific, Sir, where are we?

Mr. Jos K. Verghese *(Trichur-South)*: Yes, that is the question, where are we?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Yes, I shall try to satisfy your curiosity presently. We are on grain purchase. Now, Sir, the establishment charges of this Department consumes a very small amount of Rs. 13,80,000—I am quoting your own figures, please. It contains, as seen from the budget book as many as—a small number—1881 hands—I worked out the figures from the colums of the budget again. In the specific section—grain purchase department, as will be seen from pages 73 and 74 of the latest report of the administration of of the Department for 1119, you will find, Sir, that you have got a very large number of hands very nearly approaching a thousand all told—this particular section engaged in squeezing from the poor man more than what he has produced, but leaving the high placed man, and the highly-connected man scot-free. What can the poor man of Food Supplies Department do with such highly connected and highly placed persons? He will think twice before he dares to put his fingers in waters where he should not put them for fear of peril unto himself. You will be pleased to see, Sir, that the words used in my cut motion is 'unnecessarily large'. Necessary hands must there be; the only thing is that they must be of the right sort. Necessary hands of the right sort by all means can be there. Unnecessary hands of whatever sort, they may be sent away. And where are they to be seen? Fair price shops—102 of one variety and two of another variety, totalling 104. I shall not trouble the house with details. Each one of these fair price shops has got a manager on Rs. 25, an assistant manager on Rs. 15 and then there is the measurer and the rent for the buildings. A very large portion of these 104 shops is a superfluity, an unpardonable superfluity. Their work can be easily done by licensed shop keepers. Recommendations for doing away with some of them have already been made by the Food Advisory Committee, of which unfortunately I happen to be the president—unfortunately because my sense of duty compels me to be there while a sense of frustration is experienced by the proceedings of the Director of Food Supplies on our recommendation and we feel it very difficult to remain in that position; still I stick on.

Mr. Jos K. Verghese *(Trichur South)*: Why not resign?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: I resigned once and the Committee as a whole resigned, but then there were promises that our recommendations would be more seriously considered. We belived in those promises, but we are disillusioned. If you will admit, Sir, that some of these fair price shops consuming such large amounts of money each exist in areas where there are licen ed shops, do away with some of them, many of them rather. Then comes the staff necessary for the conversion of topioca into flakes.

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: May I say a word about this. This is only a reference relating to grain purchase; it has nothing to do with the other operations of the Supply Department; it deals purely with the purchase of paddy from the villages, from all persons from whom excess after their consumption is available. It is only for that purpose; it does not pertain to the other activities of the Food Supplies Department. These fair price shops and all those other things do not come within the purview of the grant which I asked for.

Mr. M. O. Thomakutty *(Commerce and Industries)*: May I know whether it is paddy purchase only or grain purchase?

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Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: It is grain purchase.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Then take grain out of it and purchase separately. Sir, I submit that the food question is a vital question in the State wherein this grain purchase is only one part, the most mischievous, the most ill-managed part. I shall not agree, Sir, with the view that the fair price shops have nothing to do with it. It has got to do a lot. It is the rice that is distributed by the fair price shops and at times paddy.

Then again, to satisfy, to please, the Hon'ble Member for Revenue, I shall come to another item appearing in the same page—paddy purchase staff. Do you agree that it is relevant?

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Oh, yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Down below, in the same page, there is paddy purchase depots—a duplication of the same process. I have seen the working of these paddy purchase depots, I have seen them playing cards with two packets, necessitating six hands at it. In the paddy purchase depots, 10 hands are employed. Why do you want the paddy purchase depots when you have got the five highly paid Tahsildars, 1 Assistant Tahsildar for Cranganur, many purchasing assistants, their peons and so many purihasing parvatheams and others, why do you want over and above them these 59 depots. The work of these depots has been shown to be great indeed through an answer to a question—of course it is seen they did excellent work, in the course of a harvest season they purchased 200 paras paddy. Paddy purchase depots—do away with them. At each paddy purchase depot, there is a fieldman on Rs. 25, an assistant depot keeper and such other staff. This is an unnecessary side, an unwanted side, a mere superfluity—do away with that. In answer to my query, Sir, it has been stated that some peons have been reduced. Where has the axe gone and fallen—upon the heads of these peons who have often to be the servants at home of these Tahsildars, and on the poor inmates of those homes, why not these peons be there to help them? Do away with unnecessary hands to whom large amounts are paid, why not dispense with them is the question.

Another achievement of the Food Supplies Department in the field of savings, is that the fieldmen who were getting Rs. 25, are now given Rs 20, their pay has been reduced a little. Is it after all a saving, I ask. Could not half the number of persons employed be disbanded and avoid leaving them unchecked. In another office where I went, I saw a clerk drawing 25—40 reclining in the chair with both his legs put upon the table, snoring creating a nuisance to the remaining part of the room where some work was going on. If he had work would he be doing that? If he had been properly supervised, will he care to indulge in such antics Government servant reclining in his chair with his legs stretched over the table. All that clearly shows that you have got a superfluity of hands, an unnecessarily large number of hands who have to be disbanded and the Department brought into dimensions which it is humanly possible for the energetic Hon'ble Rao Sahib to manage. That is the proposition. Will you please do it is the question. If you don't do it, we will force your hands to do it. With these remarks, I close for the present.

*മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കെ. തോമക്കുട്ടി: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ഖണ്ഡനോപക്ഷേപത്തെ ശക്തിയായി അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു. ഗ്രെയിൻപർച്ചെയ്സ് ഓഫീസ്സർമാരായി ഇവിടെനിന്നും അയച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ആളുകൾ കച്ചവടപരിജ്ഞാനമില്ലാത്ത ആളുകളായതുകൊണ്ട് വന്നിട്ടുള്ള ദോഷങ്ങളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് അറിവാൻ ഒരു സ്റ്റേറ്റ്മെണ്ട് ചോദിച്ചപ്പോൾ തന്നിട്ടുള്ളതിൽനിന്നു ധാരാളം തെളിവുകളുണ്ട്. ക,വ ൦ ൦ ടൺചരക്ക് മനുഷ്യർക്ക് ഉപയോഗിക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ലാത്തതരത്തിൽ നശിച്ചുപോയിട്ടുള്ളതായി അറിയുന്നു. ഇതു് ചരക്കുകൾ വാങ്ങാൻ പരിചയമില്ലാത്ത ആളുകൾ പോയതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇങ്ങിനെ സംഭവിച്ചതു്. കൂടാതെ ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിൽ ചെയ്യുന്നതുപോലെ കച്ചവടസൂത്രം ചരക്കുകൾവരുത്തി കച്ചവടക്കാരെ ഏല്പിച്ച് പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്ക് വിതരണംചെയ്യുന്നതാണ് എളുപ്പമായവഴി. മറ്റു ഗവൺമെണ്ടുകൾ ചെയ്യുവരുന്നതനുസരിച്ച് നമ്മുടെ ഗവൺമെണ്ടിനും ചെയ്യേണ്ടതായ ആത്യാവശ്യകതയെകുറിച്ച് ഞാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറ്റസമ്മേളനത്തിൽ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുകയുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ട്. ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇന്ത്യയിൽ ഇപ്പോൾ ഓരോനിയമങ്ങൾ കഴിവാക്കികൊണ്ടിരിക്കുമ്പോൾ കൊച്ചി ഗവൺമെണ്ട് കൂടുതൽ പ്രബലതയാടുകൂടി സ്ഥാപകളേയും മറ്റും വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു ദിവസംപ്രതി ഓരോനിയമങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചുകൊണ്ടാണ് വരുന്നതു്. ഏതാണ്ട് ഫുഡ്സപ്ലൈസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ട് പോലെ ഇല ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെണ്ട് ഹെൽത്ത്സിന്റെ ഒരു കുത്തകപോലെയാണ് കണ്ടുവ

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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ത്തുന്നത്. അതുകൊണ്ട് മറ്റു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ നടന്നുവരുന്ന സമ്പ്രദായമനുസരിച്ച് കൊച്ചിരാജ്യത്തിൽ കച്ചവടക്കാരെ ഏല്പിച്ച് മനുഷ്യർക്ക് ഉപകാരപ്രദമായ ചരക്കുകൾവരുത്തി വില്ക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ നടത്തിക്കേണ്ടതു് അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഞാൻ ഈ പ്രമേയത്തെ അനുകൂലിക്കുന്നു.

* മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: മിസ്റ്റർ പ്രസിഡണ്ട് സർ, നെല്ലുവാങ്ങിക്കുവാൻ പ്രത്യേകം നിയമിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന തഹസിൽദാർമാർ ഇനി ആവശ്യമുണ്ടോ എന്നുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് ഇനി ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതു്. ബമ്മ നമ്മുടെകയ്യിൽകിട്ടി. ഇനി നെല്ലും അരിയും ധാരാളമായിട്ടുവരും എന്നൊക്കെപറയുന്നുണ്ട്. വിളവെടുക്കുവാൻ രു മാസമൊ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ന്നു മാസമൊ വേണ്ടിവരികയുള്ളു. ആ നിലക്ക് ഇനി തഹസിൽദാർമാരെ വെച്ചിട്ടുകാര്യമില്ല. നിയമസഭക്കു് ചോദ്യംചെയ്യുവാൻപോലും അധികാരമില്ലാത്ത ചില വലിയ വലിയ ആളുകളുണ്ട്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള ആളുകളുടെ അടുക്കൽ നെല്ലെടുക്കുവാൻ തഹസിൽദാർമാർപോയാൽ നെല്ലുകിട്ടുകയില്ലെന്നതന്നെയല്ല, പുണ്യാഹത്തിനുള്ളവകയും മറ്റും കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരും, അപ്പോൾ അതുകൊണ്ട് തഹസിൽദാർമാരെ ഇനി ആവശ്യമുണ്ടെന്നുതോന്നുന്നില്ല. വിത്തുവിതച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ അതുമുളച്ചുപ്രായമായിവരുമ്പോൾ നാശപ്പെടുത്തുവാൻ ചില മാൻ നെല്ലിൽ ഇറങ്ങാറുണ്ടു്, കേഴമാൻ, കലമാൻ ഈ തരത്തിലുള്ളള്ള കറെമാനാണ് അതു്. എന്നാൽ കൊയ്തു നെല്ലു് അകത്തുവരുമ്പോൾ തിന്നുന്ന ഒരുമാതിരിമാനുണ്ടു്. അതു് ഫീൽഡ്മാനാണ്. ഈവകയൊന്നും ക്രൂരമായിരിക്കുന്നതിന്നാണ് പാവപ്പെട്ട കാരന്മാരെ വെച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു്. അവർ വാങ്ങിയാൽമതി ഈ നെല്ലെല്ലാം. ഇനി അധികകാലത്തേക്കു് നെല്ലു് വാങ്ങിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യം ഉണ്ടാവുകയില്ല. നെല്ലു് വാങ്ങിക്കുവാനെന്നു് പറഞ്ഞുപോകുന്നവർ വലിയ ജന്മികളുടെ നെല്ലെടുക്കാനല്ല പോകുന്നതു്. ചില പാവപ്പെട്ട വെമ്പാട്ട കുടിയാന്മാരുടെ കയ്യിലുള്ള നെല്ലെടുക്കാനാണ് അവർ പോകുന്നതു്. അവരുടെ കയ്യിൽ നെല്ലു് കുറേതലുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ കിട്ടുവാൻ യാതൊരു പ്രയാസവുമില്ല. പിന്നെ കഴിഞ്ഞ മേടമാസത്തിൽ നെല്ലു വാങ്ങിട്ടുള്ളതിന്റെ വില ഇതുവരെകൊടുത്തിട്ടില്ല. ൧൯൨൦ കന്നി മാസത്തിൽ നെല്ലു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടിലേക്കു് കൊടുത്തതിന്റെ വില ഇതുവരെയായിട്ടും കിട്ടാത്തവരുണ്ടു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. ആർ. കൃഷ്ണനെഴുത്തശ്ശൻ: അതു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ പോരാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ അധികമായതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇങ്ങിനെ വരുന്നതു് ഒരുകാര്യം നോക്കുമ്പോൾ ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരൊക്കെ നമ്മുടെ ആളുകളാണ്. അവരെ ഇതിൽ നിന്നു് പിരിച്ചുവിട്ടാൽ വേറെ ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കാനില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണ് ഇങ്ങിനെ നിവൃത്തിക്കുന്നതെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ തരക്കേടില്ല. ൧൯൨൦ കന്നിമാസത്തിൽ എടുത്ത നെല്ലിന്റെ വില ഇതുവരെയും കൊടുക്കുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഈ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെണ്ടിന്റെ കാര്യക്ഷമത എത്ര കേമമാണെന്നു് നോക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഈ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ സ്റ്റാഫ്സിലക്കുൻ ബോർഡിൽനിന്നു് നിയമിച്ചവരല്ല. അവരുടെ കാര്യക്ഷമത എത്രത്തോളമുണ്ടെന്നു് ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് ആലോചിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. പിന്നെ വിത്തു നിലത്തിൽ വിതച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ വിളവു് നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതു് ആപ്പീസ്സിൽ ഇരുന്നിട്ടാണ്. പാവപ്പെട്ട കാരന്മാരെ തൃപ്തിപ്പെടുത്തുകയാണെങ്കിൽ ൨൦ വിളവുള്ളതു് ൧൬ വിളവായിട്ടു മാറും. അതുപോലെ അവരെ തൃപ്തിപ്പെടുത്താത്ത ആളുകളുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ൧൬ വിളവുള്ളതിന്നു് ൨൦ വിളവുണ്ടെന്നും പറഞ്ഞു അവർ റിപ്പോർട്ടുചെയ്യും. അപ്പോൾ ബാക്കിയുള്ള നെല്ല ഉടനെ തന്നുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു് പറഞ്ഞു കല്പനയാകും. ഇങ്ങിനെ അനവധി നിബന്ധനകളുണ്ടു്. കടലാസ്സിന്നു് ക്ഷാമമുള്ള ഈ കാലത്തു് എത്ര കടലാസ്സാണു് അനാവശ്യമായിട്ടു് ചിലവാക്കുന്നതു്. ഇതിനൊക്കെ ഒരു നിവാരണം ഉണ്ടാക്കണം. ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാക്കു് ഉദ്യോഗം കൊടുക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടി ഇതു് നീട്ടികൊണ്ടുപോകേണ്ട ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഈ പാവപ്പെട്ടകാരന്മാർ മാത്രം മതി. ഗവൺമെണ്ടു് നെല്ലെടുക്കുവാൻ പോകേണ്ടായെന്നു് വെച്ചാൽ മതി. അവർ അവിടെ കൊണ്ടുചെന്നു് കൊടുത്തുകൊള്ളും. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഇനി ഇതു് നീട്ടികൊണ്ടുപോകണമെന്നില്ല എന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം.

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* Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member

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* മിസ്റ്റർ വി. ആർ. കൃഷ്ണനെഴത്തശ്ശൻ: ഗ്രൈൻ പൈച്ചെസിങ്ങ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കാലാവുധി മകരമാസം വരെയുണ്ടായിരുന്നതു് ഈ കൊല്ലം മുഴുവൻ നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകാൻ എന്തു പരിതസ്ഥിതിയാണുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നുള്ളതിനെക്കുറിച്ചു ഒരു വിശദീകരണം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടു ഭാഗത്തുനിന്നു കിട്ടാതെ തരമില്ല. മകരത്തിലെ കൊയ്ത്തോടുകൂടി നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലെ ക്ഷേണസ്ഥിതിക്കു് എന്തെങ്കിലും ഒരുപശാന്തിയുണ്ടാകുമെന്നു പ്രതീക്ഷിച്ചിരുന്നതിനേക്കാൾ എന്തു വ്യത്യസ്ഥ പരിതസ്ഥിതിയാണുണ്ടായിരിക്കുന്നതു് എന്നുള്ളതിനു യാതൊരു പ്രസ്താവനയും ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിൽനിന്നു ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ല.

റാവുസാഹിബ്ബ് എ. മാധവപ്രഭു: ഗ്രൈൻ പർച്ചെസിംഗിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം കാലേക്കൂട്ടി യാതൊരു കാലാവുധിയും പറയാൻ തരമില്ല. ഒരുപൂവിലെ വിളവിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നു മാസത്തേക്കു് മാത്രമേ കണക്കാക്കാൻ തരമുള്ളു. ഇങ്ങനെ ആറാമാസത്തേക്കു നീട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകാനേ തരമുള്ളു. ഇന്നപ്പോഴാണു് യുദ്ധം അവസാനിക്കാൻ പോകുന്നതു്. ഇന്നപ്പോഴാണു് ബമ്മാ അരികാട്ടാൻ പോകുന്നതു എന്നുള്ളതു് ആക്കും പറയാൻ സാദ്ധ്യമല്ല.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. ആർ. കൃഷ്ണനെഴത്തശ്ശൻ: യുദ്ധം അവസാനിച്ചു എന്നു തീർച്ചയില്ലേ?

റാവുസംഹിബ്ബ് എ. മാധവപ്രഭു: യുദ്ധം അവസാനിച്ചു എന്നാണു വിചാരിക്കുന്നതു്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. ഓ. തോമക്കുട്ടി: ഇപ്പോൾ ബമ്മാ അരി വന്നിട്ടില്ലേ?

റാവുസാഹിബ്ബ് എ. മാധവപ്രഭു: ആ കാര്യത്തെസംബന്ധിച്ചു് നിങ്ങൾക്കെല്ലാം അറിവുള്ളമാതിരിമാത്രമേ എനിക്കും അറിവുള്ളു.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. എ. മുഹമ്മദ് അഷ്റഫ്: അതിൽനിന്നു നമുക്കു കിട്ടുകയില്ല?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Sir, I rise just to give some information wanted. It was thought last year that we will be able to wind up the procurement scheme this year in view of the cessation of hostilities. We thought we would be getting an abundant supply of Burma rice, but unfortunately that hope has not been fulfilled, we have been reliably informed that there is no chance of any substantial supply of Burma rice being sent to us and secondly in addition to that there has been a deterioration in the all-India rice position. So all steps that we have been taking for the procurement programme have to continue with equal if not more vigour. That is why the term of the procurement staff has been extended.

Regarding the observation that Burma rice has come, I may say that the Burma rice that had come was intended for the Madras Province owing to the heavy deficit in Madras due to failure of crops they had. All the Burma rice has been allotted to them. That is the position.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. ആർ. കൃഷ്ണനെഴത്തശ്ശൻ: നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിലുണ്ടാകുന്ന നെല്ലിന്റെ വിളവു് ഇപ്പോൾ എങ്ങിനെയിരിക്കുന്നു?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* With regard to the present crop, some damage was expected, but after the actual harvest, we find that the damage is greater than what has been estimated. We estimated a damage of about 20 per cent, but now it appears to be not anything less than 25 per cent at the least. If that is so, there is all the more reason to continue our arrangements for procurement.

Now that I have stood up, I would like to answer one more point referred to by the Hon'ble Member for Commerce. The very remark seems to be the result of a misapprehension that the Department is sought to be continued for the benefit of some individuals, perhaps including myself and some of my subordinates. I can assure you that it is not so. We are not having a very comfortable time of it. Government are continuing the Department only in the interest of the public.

Another remark that he made is that the loss referred to would not have occurred if it had been entrusted to competent hands. The loss referred to is that given in answer to a question this morning. If you scrutinise the statement, it will be seen that the loss is incurred in a total transaction of 10 lakhs and the loss does not even come to one per cent, only below one per cent. Every effort is made to bring down the loss as far as possible.

Another fallacy is purchases are done by persons who have no experience of these matters. These purchases are made by officers established by the surplus areas. Our officers are only to

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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speed up the movements, and to inspect; that is all. Purchases are not made by persons who have absolutely no experience. He said that if the business had been entrusted to merchants, it would be done much better. Of course, the House will be pleased to remember that at one time the whole purchase was being done by the merchant community whom my hon'ble friend has the honour to represent. It was done in a most unsatisfactory way, with the result that it caused great hardship and suffering to the public and it was on the demand of the whole public that the Government took up this work. So that to suggest that if it had been entrusted to the merchant community, it would have been done better, is only fretting and fuming against interests which are vitally affected. That it is the reason is too obvious to require any comment.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. ആർ. കൃഷ്ണനെഴുത്തശ്ശൻ: ഖാഖിലേന്ത്യാ ക്ഷേണസ്ഥിതി മോശമായതിന്റെ പ്രത്യാഘാതങ്ങളും നമ്മുടെ നാട്ടിനെ എങ്ങിനെയാണ് ബാധിക്കാൻ പോകുന്നതെന്നു പറയുവാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ? ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നിലയിൽനിന്നു മോശമാകുമോ, അതോ ഈ നില തുടരാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ എന്നു പറയാമോ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Of course it depends upon the supplies we are to get. It is not definite from the information we now have. From the promises that we have to supplement our quotas by the Central Government there is no reason for much alarm but the situation is one which gives constant anxiety to Government.

മിസ്റ്റർ ജി. എസ്സ്. ധാരാസിംഗ്: ഇവിടെനിന്നും കുറെ അരി മദ്രാസിലേക്കു കൊടുത്തതു കടമായിട്ടു കണക്കാക്കുമോ, അതോ എന്നെന്നേക്കുമായി വിട്ടുകൊടുത്തതാണോ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It was not the rice allotted for us, it was the rice intended for Malabar that was diverted to Madras.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* This need was greater.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Yes.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. ഒ. തോമക്കുട്ടി: അരി വരുത്താൻ പ്രയാസമുണ്ടെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു, മറ്റു ധാന്യങ്ങളും വരുത്താൻ പ്രയാസമുണ്ടാകുമോ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Pulses have increased and there is no objection to entrust pulses to the merchants.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. ഒ. തോമക്കുട്ടി: അതു വരുത്തുമെന്നു കരുതിക്കാമോ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Government are not handling any pulses now. The merchants can deal with them.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. This is not question time.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. ആർ. കൃഷ്ണനെഴുത്തശ്ശൻ: ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റിൽനിന്നു ശേഖരിച്ചു വെച്ചിട്ടുള്ള നെല്ലു മില്ലിൽ കൊണ്ടുപോയി കുത്താൻ കോൺസ്പൊട്ടു ചെയ്യുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ വല്ല കഴപ്പവും അടുത്തകാലത്തുണ്ടായിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* This year we have given a contract for the work of transport from place of purchase to the mills. Formerly it was done by the mills. Now it is given on tender to a new contractor. In the initial stage there has been some difficulty in making arrangement. That is being rapidly met and arrangements are almost complete.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. ആർ. കൃഷ്ണനെഴുത്തശ്ശൻ: ൧൦, ൧൫ ദിവസം കഴിഞ്ഞു പല മില്ലുകളിലും നെല്ലു കിട്ടാത്ത ഒരു സ്ഥിതിയാണോ ഉള്ളതു?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* That is not correct. In some places there has been delay in movement. We have taken necessary steps and it will be alright soon.

*Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* Sir, I intervene only to impress one aspect. It would appear the Government are entertaining some doubt as to whether there is any delay in the disbursing of the price of paddy purchased. It is a fact there is considerable delay in the the matter of disbursing the price of paddy to the seller. I have only one fact to bring to the notice of the Government and that is this. The sellers, that is the agriculturists get only

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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Rs. 1—6—0 if I remember correctly for a para of paddy that they give to the Government and they in their turn are constrained to purchase paddy from the depot at the rate of Rs. 1—12—0, so that they stand to lose 6 as. in a para and much more if they have to wait in the Varandha of Taluk office for the small amount that is due to them. I know as a matter of fact persons belonging to Palanzhi and Kattakambal are coming to Vadakkancheri for getting this money and ultimately going without getting it too. I would therefore request that the Government may be pleased that absolutely no delay is caused in the payment of the price of paddy.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Arrangements have already been made to make payments in camp by the Tahsildars. It is only to those persons for whom it is convenient to go and receive the money in the Taluk that the disbursement is made there.

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* Even in their cases there is delay and difficulty.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Definite days are fixed for payment in the Taluk Office and we will see to it that it is made as easy as possible.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Why can't the officers go and pay the amount?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* They are doing it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* My cut motion is for the reduction of the unnecessarily large number of hands.

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* What was Rao Sahib Ayyappan's suggestion?

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* Give money and then purchase.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* That was being done at first but there were complaints that money was not fully paid, so we stopped that.

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I have nothing to add to what has been already stated in reply.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* Regarding the depots I may say there are 28 depots and these depots are not entertained for the full period of the year but they are entertained only for the harvest season and when there is paddy purchase. The Hon'ble mover of the cut motion referred to one depot where there was only a purchase of 200 paras. That is situated in an out of way place from where it is not possible to collect paddy in any other manner. So we opened a depot there and that only for a short time. It was abolished as soon as the paddy was purchased.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. Deputy President, there had been a very large number of questions put to the two honourable Rao Sahibs and as many answers also were given. I am not concerned with that. I am concerned with the statement that I made referring to the cut-motion and the position of the Government regarding those points. I have made a categorical statement that there is an unduly large number of hands employed. I have given facts and figures, I have pointed out where the axe can be applied and which of the sections and which of the hands can be reduced. That is the only part of the debate which has to be answered and which has been very beautifully answered by the Hon'ble Member representing the Food Supplies Department by saying that they have employed only the minimum number of hands. That was an answer that was anticipated because that alone is the possible answer when the case of the Government is so week and our case so strong. So there is no surprise although such an answer should surpise a person but since it is anticipated there is no surprise but it is the poorest answer that can be given to a discussion on motion like the one that I have made here. There was an attempt on the part of the other Hon'ble Rao Sahib who interfered in this debate and said, at times for 6 months, at times for 9 months at times for 12 months and if he had continued he would have said at times for 15 months, at times for 18 months till he is assured that the war is over. It was stated by the Hon'ble Member that it is presumed that the war was over. Of course we know what it is. This sort of answering whether in the English form or in the Malayalam form a 'vital' question which affects our stomach should not be attempted at. I am not convinced that you have employed only the minimum number of hands. If an impartial individual and if necessary an impartial committee were to travel the whole length of Cochin and step into the offices where the Food Supplies Department for each area is working, my statement will be borne out by their experience Try it, I invite any Hon'ble Member to try it if he is minded

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that way, he will be satisfiied. The only saving feature as long as these gentlemen and ladies also, are employed in the department is they get something, after all they are only our brothers and sisters—why not they enjoy. If that is the view that is taken they need not be disturbed. If you want only the minimum number of hands to work the department efficiently and well you don't require half the number. Otherwise if you continue to keep this large number of hands even in spite of our protest at least have another highly paid officer equally energetic to run about so that they may at least on hearing the food-steps on the stair case they will draw back their legs and wake from their sleep in order to avoid being caught red handed. The Hon'ble Member for Food Supplies ought to have gained from some observations made from this side of the House that after all the Food Department is a Department whose officers have to be not mutilated by our criticism but should be patted on the back. Another Hon'ble Member once said on a former occasion "all the stringent criticisms against the department I endorse but all the same deal with him smoothly" there is a season because that departmental head is dealing smoothly with another in whom that Hon'ble Member is interested such things Sir, must end.

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* What is that interest?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Search and then you will find. Please look into the speeches on the cut-motion of the Hon'ble Member Mr. K. S. Panicker. In the speech of an Hon'ble Member whom I shall not name, now you will see these and more things. Such observations only add strength to the treasury benches. If we are unanimous and strigent in our language, consistant of course with the facts obtaining, certainly they will think one hundred times before they answer important question like the reduction of unnecessarily large number of hands employed by the Department and supervised by a poor sole unnecessarily fatigued and over-worked. I am speaking Sir, in your interest (*laughter*). I have not forgotten the days when we were college-mates, and my sympathy goes in abundance to you. I want to see that the public get their due from the highly paid department and not to see a relation of mine gets an undeserved promotion. Therefore you must think twice before you deflect from the course that is open to you. I will fight the battle till you are improved or annihilated. To a query of the Hon'ble Member for Oorakam it was said that fresh Burmah rice was expected and that subsequently it was deflected and now the Imperial Governments Food situation is getting worse. Do you seriously think that this food situation in India will improve till the demand of 1942 August is accepted or enforced. Till the exploiter leaves India is there any possibility of the Food Question in all India improving? Did you not read the other day the food question in India being debated in the assembly? Did you try to follow it? Did you try to profit by it? There is no use of reading a newspaper if you don't follow it or adopt what is good in it. Poor show yours! I will insist Sir your rising up to the occasion and being answerable for the very big and fat salary that you draw. What is it I ask when the food question is being tackled that you the Hon'ble Members sitting there are doing. Are you only concerned with the drawing of your pay on the 20th of the month or on the day following the last day of the month. We will see that you are not paid. It is no idle threat. There are methods, union, for getting personalities, united, united 48 of us, representing 14 lakhs of people are here what are they the wooden benches I ask, in all seriousness? It is more an appeal to be good, Sir and it is open to them to respond beautifully. I have no idea to press the motion I have only pointed out your defects you can improve. I shall wait and see. If the House will allow me to withdraw I will do so.

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* "What a fall, my countryman".

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* There is no fall, I was only trying to press home that point to the Government to see if they will improve

Cut-motion by leave withdrawn

Demands put and carried

35. 39. Miscellaneous—3—Price Control (c) Grain purchase—Dearness Allowance

36. 39. Miscellaneous—3—price Control (c) Grain purchase—T. A.

37. 39—Miscellaneous—3—price Control Measures (c) Grain purchase—other charges

Rao Sahib A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I may be permitted to move the next three items to-gether. They relate to the same subject. Rs. 22,887 for Dearness Allowance, Rs. 10,000 for T. A. and Rs. 7,095 for other charges under the same head.

Demands put and carried

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